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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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November 6, 2001

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
ON ALCOHOLISM**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission on Alcoholism (Commission) be set at October 1, 2005.

### **BACKGROUND**

California Health and Safety Code Section 11805 requires that counties have a Commission on Alcoholism. The Los Angeles County Commission on Alcoholism functions pursuant to Chapter 3.06 of the Los Angeles County Code.

The Commission's duties are to participate in planning for County alcohol programs and advise the County alcohol program administrator and the Board on policies and goals of the County alcohol programs. The Commission also reviews other alcohol-related issues and other matters referred to the Commission by the administrator or the Board, or which are raised by the Commission itself.

The Commission consists of fifteen members, three nominated by each Supervisor. Currently, there are five vacancies. Meetings are held at least bimonthly and members receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed \$50 in any month.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission was formed and continues for the purpose of reducing alcohol-related problems and the negative impact of alcohol use on the quality of life in Los Angeles County. As an advisory board, the Commission works closely with the Director of the Department of Health Services' Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) on alcohol related policies, treatment, recovery and prevention, with input from various County departments, service providers and the public.

During this review period, the Commission made several significant recommendations to the Board for alcohol program planning. For example, the Commission recommended that the Board instruct ADPA to develop and implement a two-year pilot project to certify sober living homes. As a result of this recommendation, the Los Angeles County Task Force on Sober and Congregate Living was organized to develop recommendations for certifying sober and congregate living facilities in Los Angeles County.

The Commission also recommended that ADPA develop a Request-for-Proposal for Adolescent Treatment, Recovery, and Intervention Services. Subsequently, five contracts were awarded for these services.

Another Commission recommendation resulted in ADPA contracting with UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs to conduct an outcome evaluation study on County-contracted alcohol and drug programs. This reporting program will identify the existing and needed services/practices and provide the means to reach the overall goal of continued improvement of the delivery of alcohol and drug services.

In conjunction with other organizations, the Commission successfully hosted the 2001 International Al-impics (Alcoholic Olympics) on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Los Angeles Southwest College to celebrate recovery and sobriety. The Commission annually recommends that the Board of Supervisors proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month in Los Angeles County.

In the future, the Commission plans to urge the District Attorney and the County-wide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee to expand drug court eligibility. In addition, the Commission will continue to meet jointly with the County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission twice a year to discuss common health issues. Overall, the Commission plans to continually study and make recommendations to the Board on current and future alcohol-related issues and to be a reliable and objective resource for ADPA, identifying concerns and guiding development of programs and services in Los Angeles County.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:JS  
Attachments

c: Terry Russell Hayes, Chair, Commission on Alcoholism  
Khanh Nguyen, Manager, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON ALCOHOLISM  
REVIEW COMMENTS

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission.

**CONCUR**

**Section 1. Relevancy.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission continues to advise and make recommendations to the Board on alcohol issues with the goal of reducing alcohol-related problems and the negative impact of alcohol use on the quality of life in Los Angeles County. **RELEVANT**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission of Alcoholism is required to meet at least bimonthly. It held a total of 21 meetings during the last two years (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2001). Average attendance has been nine commissioners per meeting. **SATISFACTORY**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The Commission on Alcoholism's accomplishments include the following:

- Recommended that the Department of Health Services' Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) develop a Request-for-Proposal for Adolescent, Treatment, Recovery, and Intervention Services. Currently, five contracts have been awarded to program providers who are addressing youth recovery needs in Los Angeles County.
- Submitted a recommendation to the Board to instruct ADPA, to develop a two-year pilot project to certify sober living homes. As a result, Supervisor Zev Yaroslasky introduced a motion instructing the Director of Health Services to convene the Los Angeles County Task Force on Sober and Congregate Living. The Task Force is currently developing recommendations for certifying sober and congregate living facilities.
- Recommended to ADPA that it contract with UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs to conduct an outcome evaluation study on County-contracted alcohol and drug programs. The Commission receives ongoing reports on this project and identifies issues for study and evaluation.

- The Commission, in conjunction with other organizations, successfully hosted the 2001 International Al-impics (Alcoholic Olympics) on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Los Angeles Southwest College to celebrate recovery and sobriety.
- The Commission recommends annually that the Board proclaim April as Alcohol Awareness Month in Los Angeles County. **SIGNIFICANT**

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

In the future, the Commission plans to urge the District Attorney and the County-wide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee to expand drug court eligibility. It will also continue to meet with other health-related Commissions to discuss current and potential problems related to health services. In addition, it will continue to study and recommend policies to the Board and the ADPA Director on alcohol related issues. **RELEVANT**

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners receive \$25 for attending each meeting, not to exceed \$50 in any month. ADPA incurred fiscal year 2000-2001 expenditures of approximately \$80,000 associated with commission activities. These costs included support staff salaries, commissioner stipends, and services and supplies. **WARRANTED**

**Section 7. Recommendation:**

**THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE COMMISSION ON ALCOHOLISM BE SET AT OCTOBER 1, 2005.**

## Commission on Alcoholism

NOMINATED BY		TERM EXPIRES JULY 1
Molina	Vacant	2002
Molina	Vacant	1998
Molina	Reverend Jack Kearney (M) Date of Reappointment: 04/03/2001	Chairman 2003 2nd Term
Burke	Vacant	2003
Burke	* Mr. Louis B. Johnson (M) Date of Reappointment: 01/30/2001	2002 3rd Term
Burke	Ms. Cheryl Branch (F) Date of Appointment: 02/02/1999	2002 1st Term
Yaroslavsky	Mr. F. Kenneth Schonlau (M) Date of Reappointment: 10/03/2000	2003 2nd Term
Yaroslavsky	The Honorable Charles G. Rubin (M) Date of Reappointment: 08/03/1999	2002 3rd Term

(Continued)

\* Change  
Revised 09/01/2001

TERM EXPIRES  
JULY 1

## NOMINATED BY

Yaroslavsky	Vacant	2000
Knabe	Ms. Lola Ungar (F) Date of Appointment: 10/31/2000	2002 1st Term
Knabe	Vacant	2003
Knabe	Vacant	1998
Antonovich	Mr. Gene C. Webster (M) Date of Reappointment: 10/05/1999	2002 4th Term
Antonovich	Ms. Terry Hayes (F) Date of Appointment: 05/05/1998	2001 1st Term
Antonovich	Joe Takamine, M.D. (M) Date of Appointment: 02/29/2000	2003 1st Term
	Ms. Jackie Moultrie Commission Assistant 1000 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, California 91803-4737	Contact (B) (626) 299-4106 (R)

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON ALCOHOLISM  
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Commissioner	Appointed By	9/30/1999	12/31/1999	3/31/2000	6/30/2000	9/30/2000	12/31/2000	3/31/2001	6/30/2001	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter		3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	21	
The Honorable Charles G. Rubin	Yaroslavsky	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	18	86%
Mr. F. Kenneth Schonlau	Yaroslavsky	3	3	3	2	2	0	3	3	19	90%
Mr. James F. Hurley	Yaroslavsky	2	3	2	0	2				9	69%
Reverend Jack Kearney	Molina	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	21	100%
Mr. Raymond A.E. Chavira	Molina	1	3	3	2	2	2			13	87%
Mr. Valentin Rodriguez, Jr.	Molina	0	0	0						0	0%
Ms. Mary Proper	Knabe	2	3	3	1					9	82%
Ms. Mitchell Maricich	Knabe	3	1	0	0	0				4	31%
Mr. Armando Moreno, Jr.	Dana	0	0	0						0	0%
Ms. Lola Ungar	Knabe						2	3	3	8	100%
Ms. M. Ellen Ward	Knabe						0	3	0	3	38%
Ms. Cheryl Branch	Burke	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	19	90%
Mr. Louis B. Johnson	Burke	1	2	3	1	1	0	2	1	11	52%
Mr. Henry Porter, Jr.	Burke	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		13	72%
Ms. Terry Hayes	Antonovich	3	3	2	1	2	2	3	3	19	90%
Mr. Bruce A. Ault	Antonovich	2	1							3	50%
Mr. Gene C. Webster	Antonovich	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	15	71%
Mr. Joe Takamine, M.D.	Antonovich			1	2	2	2	3	3	13	87%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>197</b>	

Average Attendance per Meeting    **9.4**